

Living Water



Covenant Players

Charles M. Tanner, Founder and Playwright
Bobbi M. Johnson-Tanner, International Director

Covenant Players' 50th Anniversary!

November 2013

A pillar of fire. A nomadic community. God's miraculous and daily provision.

The dramatic and familiar events of the book of Exodus?

No, on this occasion it was **Covenant Players' 50th Anniversary Retreat**, in Beaumont (via Idyllwild), California.

THE PRESENT

As Covenant Players and guests from across the world prepared to travel to our retreat site in Idyllwild, California, news reports warned of wild fires in the area, but calls to the site had confirmed both our safety and anticipated arrival.

However, not long after arriving in Idyllwild, we were informed that, due to a rapidly developing situation, we were being evacuated from the retreat site to an as yet unspecified accommodations below. We were then led in caravan formation down the moun-

future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

No one could have planned or even anticipated the events of this retreat. It was as if He had picked us up by His hand and moved us into the situation He had designed for us.

Quickly, Covenant Players jumped in to help, as hundreds of camp beds arrived and were erected in the large gymnasium. Food started to arrive from Red Cross sources, community businesses and members of the public. Right there, amongst the cots, on that first night, 114 Covenant Players

plus members of the evacuated community, sang worship songs, read from the word and worshipped God.

Thus began an incredible shared time together of spiritual and community renewal. Members of both

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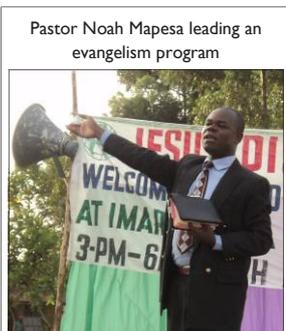


Covenant Players in front of Beaumont High School

tainside to what was being established as a Red Cross Relief Shelter, at Beaumont High School.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a

Returning to Kenya



Pastor Noah Mapesa leading an evangelism program

We are excited to announce that **our long hoped for return visit to Kenya, East Africa will soon be a reality!** From 7-21 November, Covenant Players Joe Medley and David Groves will return to Kenya for the first time in over 15 years! Kenyan Pastor Noah Mapesa is busy arranging a series of

evangelistic outreaches for drama ministry in towns and villages throughout his region of Western Kenya.

The visit was originally scheduled for March of this year, but shortly before the planned trip, Pastor Noah wrote asking us to postpone our coming because of the possibility of unrest in the country due to

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Covenant Players performances throughout Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Estonia —

- 23 Aug — Learnmark, Horsens, DENMARK
- 25 Aug — Strandkykran, Klagshamn, SWEDEN
- 26 Aug — Östra Funkaboskolan, Kalmar, SWEDEN
- 4 Sept — Fagersta Bibliotek Risbroskolan, Fagersta, SWEDEN
- 4 Sept — Lindgårdskolen, Fagersta, SWEDEN
- 10 Sept — Klockarbergskolan, Skinnskatteberg, SWEDEN

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12-13 Sept — Minervaskolan, Umeå, SWEDEN

17 Sept — Liljaskolan, Vännäs, SWEDEN

22 Sept — Nordmaling församling, Nordmaling, SWEDEN

23-25 Sept — Björknäs gymnasiet, Boden, SWEDEN

29 Sept — Jakobstads Baptistförsamling, Jakobstads, FINLAND

3 Oct — Vaasa Evangeliska Folkhögskola, Vaasan seurakuntayhtymä, Vaasa, FINLAND

5 Oct — Youth camp, Vaasan seurakuntayhtymä, Vaasa, FINLAND

6 Oct — International Congregation Vaasa, Vaasan seurakuntayhtymä, Vaasa, FINLAND

4 Oct — Petalax Skola, Petalax, FINLAND

8 Oct — Tapiolan Koulu, Espoo, FINLAND

9 Oct — Hiekkaharju school, Vantaa, FINLAND

13 Oct — Fiadelfia församling, Borga, FINLAND

16 Oct — Kose Gymnasium, Harju County, ESTONIA

17 Oct — Koeru Gümnaasium, Koeru, ESTONIA

18 Oct — Paldiski Gümnaasium, Paldiski, ESTONIA

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Covenant Players' 50th Anniversary! (cont.)



The fire near our planned retreat site at Idyllwild

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the Idyllwild and Beaumont communities - as well as members of the Red Cross - joined us to share in our retreat activities and lives were touched and changed by what took place there. Many expressed how it must have been God's plan to bring them to be with us.

Of their own volition, staff of Beaumont High School came in to open up and run the spectacular state of the art theatre in which we were invited to perform our plays. (All our equipment having been left behind upon the evacuation order.) The school's kitchen staff, on summer vacation, offered to open up the kitchens and pre-

pared incredible hot meals for us each day. The school district transport staff offered assistance should we need it.



Elbe Unit — Jodi Wideman (UL)

teers asked to speak, to share the impacts upon their lives. *And then, only then, as the service finished did we receive word that the evacuation order was lifted.*

THE PAST

Fifty years ago a man dared to dream a dream and to accept a call; covenanting his life to writing the plays for an itinerant ministry that would carry the gospel through drama into all the world. So *Covenant Players* was born. A ministry of faith, reliant upon God, and his people, for every daily need.

And how word spread about the plays. When the plays had been selected, weeks before, we could not have anticipated the impact of performing *WHERE THE HEART IS*, one of Chuck's first plays and set in a lifesaving station, for volunteers of the Red Cross, nor *WAR CASUALTIES*, set in a field hospital in the Second World War. Neither could we have envisioned a special performance for about 20 representatives of the district school board.



British & Irish Office — Ellis Allen, Geoff & Deborah Allen (Supervisors), Naomi Metz.

The retreat culminated in a wonderful worship service on the Sunday morning, at which several of the community and volun-

How fitting then, that as we celebrated that 50th anniversary, the Lord chose to lift us from the solitude of the mountain top, and put us into the world as His witness.



Midnight Sun Unit — Jo & Larry French-Howser (ULs), Anneli Schott

Charlemagne Unit — Mélodie Lumbu, Mårten & Katie Bjärgvide (ULs)



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Returning to Kenya (cont.)

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presidential elections happening at that time. Thankfully, the elections proceeded relatively safely. But **news of the recent violence by Somali terrorists in Nairobi** have renewed our prayers for peace and safety for the people of Kenya.

Please join us in prayer for Kenya and for Joe, David and Pastor Noah as they prepare for the visit to Kenya. We hope that this will be the **first of many ongoing visits to East and West Africa nations** which have not seen Covenant Players for many years. We have already

received invitations to return to Nigeria and Uganda and hope to visit at least one of them next year. **Would you consider a financial gift in support of our visit to Kenya?** Your prayers and giving will help enable the trip to Kenya and the continued ministry of Covenant Players in East and West Africa.



Performances:

18 Oct — Mustamae Mary Magdalene's Congregation, Tallinn, ESTONIA

20-23 Oct — Ärentuna Församling, Storvreta, SWEDEN

20 Nov — Bergsjö skola, Bergsjö, SWEDEN

19 Nov — Torsbergsgymnasiet, Bollnäs, SWEDEN

26 Nov — Fellingsbro Folkhögskola, Fellingsbro, SWEDEN

28 Nov — Dannemorabygdens församling, Österbybruk, SWEDEN

2-3 Dec — Laxå kommun, Laxå, SWEDEN

5 Dec — Gislaved Frikyrkoförsamling, Gislaved, SWEDEN

8 Dec — Malmo International Church, Malmo, Sweden

10 Dec — Lelitha Gyllingberg, Hjo, SWEDEN

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO CONFIRM THE UPDATED PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

+49 (0)2663-3751

CHECK OUT LIVING WATER AT <http://www.covenantplayers.org>

and click on the link for newsletters

Covenant Players' 50th Anniversary! (cont.)

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How fitting that He chose to feed us and provide for us, by His hand, in that world. How fitting that our corporate retreat was lived together as nomads, sleeping alongside one another in our simple cots.

And so God cared for His people, providing for every need, uniting them as one body through this incredible shared history and affirming His anointing and commission for the ministry of Covenant Players.



French Cluster — Joe & Nance (Field Director) Friedman

The call remains the same: to go into ALL the world and to preach His gospel. Through 50 years that call has taken Covenant Players across the world, as well as to the mission on our doorstep,

behind closed doors, into war situations, to areas of natural disaster, to boardrooms of corporations with great wealth, to classrooms, prisons, hospitals, fellowship halls and sanctuaries.... All of them His sanctuary.

Albion Unit — Henrik Hansen (UL), Mary Ewing, and Brenda Hansen (UL)



THE FUTURE

As we celebrate this 50th anniversary, we embrace His demonstrable anointing and commission for the next 50 years. Knowing not where He will take us but, with vision and complete assurance, knowing that... **“He knows the plans He has for us.”**



Donau Unit — David & Silke Groves (ULs)

As we seek to be attentive and available to His call, we would like to invite your participation, again, by making a one time, or a pledged regular gift, in honor of CP's 50th Anniversary and as “seed monies”.



Haukeli Cluster — Seth & Siri Ueland Chancy (ULs), Jorunn & Arek Gorciaczko

enabling us to respond to new and ever developing ministry opportunities. Your one time or pledged regular gifts, will be used to undergird and sustain our continuing mission, helping us together to fulfill the Great Commission, **“To go into all the world and to make disciples...”**

Please use the attached response form to make your gift.

Thank you for your partnership in mission, yesterday, today and for the future! 



European Continental Office — Dale & Ann Sieber, Joe & Karin Medley (Supervisors), Penni Jo & Larry Blatterman

The “Miracle Miles” Half-Marathon



“Passing Through the Waters” - Märten Bjärgvide offers umbrella to Jodi Wideman running in a rainy Half-Marathon

The 2nd Annual “Miracle Miles” Half-Marathon was held on 29 June 2013 near Covenant Players' European Headquarters in Stahlhofen am Wiesensee, Germany. The runners and walkers persevered through cold and rainy weather to complete the 21.1 kilometer course. Thank you to all of the participants, Covenant Players Geoffrey Allen, Penni Jo Blatterman, Joe Medley, Denise Twining &

Jodi Wideman, as well as CP friends, Georg & Ute Herb, Dominik Glass & Bernd Hanak, for their great efforts on our behalf and to all those who participated in this event through their gifts of sponsorship. This year's sponsorship gifts went towards sponsoring Covenant Players programs for disadvantaged groups throughout Europe and also helped CPers to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Covenant Players in the U.S. 

Bringing the community to life –bringing LIFE to the community!

Covenant Players

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Please advise us of address changes and/or if you would like to receive this newsletter via email!

www.covenantplayers.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Players exists to communicate the Lord Jesus Christ through the medium of drama.

To that end we commit ourselves to:

- Go where the people are.
- Serve the leadership of the church and the community.
- Live a life worthy of our call.
- Love each other and those we serve.

In Covenant with God and one another, we dedicate ourselves to this task.

From Covenant Players' Open House in Stahlhofen, Germany — May 2013



Prayer Guide

OUR deep and heartfelt thanks go to all of you who support us and participate with us in so many ways — and most importantly — with your prayers.

WE give thanks to the Lord for His blessing upon the **50th Anniversary Celebration of Covenant Players** in the U.S. and for the renewal of **unity and vision** that resulted from that inspirational gathering.

PLEASE pray for us to build upon our **renewed**

vision that we may serve with passion and stamina as a resource to the needs of the church and society throughout Europe. We pray for **increased opportunities** and eyes to see how we may creatively and effectively respond to the needs before us.

PLEASE pray for International Director **Bobbi Johnson-Tanner**, for **Joe & Karin Medley**, **European Supervisors**, for **all of the executive leadership** of Covenant Players and for **all CP missionaries** as we seek to serve the

Lord in obedience and grace.

WE thank God for His **provision for the journey to the U.S.** by the European CPers and all Covenant Players worldwide and providing for our emergency retreat site when we had to be evacuated.

PLEASE pray for God's provision and blessing upon the **upcoming ministry trip to Kenya, East Africa.**

PLEASE pray for the special health needs of

Larry Blatterman, Dale Sieber and **Bobbi Johnson-Tanner** as well as other Covenant Players.

PLEASE pray our new missionaries in Europe — **Anneli Schott and Mélodie Lumbu** and for more **missioners to join** Covenant Players in Europe as well as in South Africa, Australia and North America.

PLEASE pray for **safety for all CP units**, as they travel many kilometers in His service. 

“By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. (Exodus 13:21 NIV)”

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24 NIV)

Please send your response to Covenant Players *by email* to cp.europe@covenantplayers.org.

I would like to make a monthly gift of:
___ €10 ___ €20 ___ €50 ___ other.



I will commit to partner with CP in prayer. Please email
me your newsletters.

Please remove me from your mailing list.

Please accept my one-time gift of:
___ €10 ___ €20 ___ €50 ___ other.

Please include the below information. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment Information

By Bank Transfer:
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Konto – 790 76 13
IBAN – DE64 5739 1800 0007
9076 13

Please include name in memo!

Please designate my gift toward:

Mission Trip to Kenya, East Africa.

Sponsored programmes in Europe.

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